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PATENT

2/21/03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Dr. Folker Beck

Examiner: Meredith Petravick

Serial No.: 09/943,226

Group Art Unit 3671

Filed: 29 August 2001

(Atty. Ref. No. 08952-US)

For: ROTARY CONVEYOR WITH FINGERS

Moline, IL 61265

3 February 2003

First Amendment

The Honorable Commissioner
of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

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Responsive to the Office Action dated 13 September 2002, paper no. 5,
please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 5, 6 and 11, and amend claims 1, 7, 10, 12 and 17 as follows:

1. A rotary conveyor comprising:
a drum-shaped shell having openings;
an eccentric axle arranged inside the shell, the eccentric axle defining an axial direction;

finger supports being rotatively mounted to the eccentric axle, each finger support is rotatively mounted to the eccentric axle by several annular bearings spaced apart in the axial direction along the eccentric axle, the finger supports extend radially outward from and parallel to the eccentric axle;

a plurality of fingers are mounted to each finger support, the fingers extending through the openings in the drum-shaped shell such that fingers on one finger support are arranged next to one another in the axial direction, the finger supports